



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

SIXTH FLOOR, PRUDENTIAL BUILDING, 195 NORTH TCE., ADELAIDE, S.A.

Box 1433J, G.P.O., Adelaide
South Aust. 5001

TELEPHONE: 23 9911
TELEX: AA82106

DIVORCE

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1967

SCOPE

This bulletin gives particulars of petitions filed and orders granted for dissolution of marriage, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage, during the year 1967 with comparable data for previous years.

In 1959 the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959, which came into operation on 1 February 1961. This Act established uniform grounds throughout the whole of the Commonwealth for the termination of marriage and superseded the matrimonial cause laws for the States and Territories except in so far as the transitional provisions of the Act keep them in force for the purpose of completing pending proceedings. The main changes in South Australia were as follows:

- (i) The period of desertion constituting a ground for dissolution of marriage was reduced from three years to two years.
- (ii) A petition on the ground of separation for five years does not now require a Court order for judicial separation as a pre-requisite.
- (iii) The period of the decree nisi for dissolution or annulment of marriage was reduced from six months to three months.

The immediate effect was to increase both the number of petitions filed and orders absolute for dissolution in 1961.

Statistics of petitions filed since 1 February 1961 are on a uniform basis. However, statistics of decrees absolute granted are not uniformly based because decrees absolute based on petitions lodged prior to 1 February 1961 have been granted since that date; for instance, 639 of the 718 decrees absolute granted in 1961 for dissolution of marriage were on petitions lodged before February 1961. Since then most such decrees granted have been on petitions filed under the current legislation, and by 1967 the number granted on petitions filed under the superseded legislation had become insignificant.

COMMENT

The number of petitions filed for dissolution has risen each year since 1960 and the 1,178 in 1967 is the highest yet filed in one year. With the exception of three of the World War II years, the number of petitions filed by wives has exceeded that by husbands in each year since 1931. Petitions by wives for dissolution constituted 63.6 per cent of those filed in 1967.

The principal single grounds upon which petitions for dissolution of marriage were filed in 1967 were desertion (359 petitions), adultery (322), separation (181) and cruelty (175).

The 718 orders absolute granted for dissolution of marriage in the first year (1961) of uniform legislation was higher than in any previous year, and with the exception of 1962 (685 orders absolute) this number has been exceeded in each year since. The 929 marriages dissolved in 1967 is the second highest number on record, the highest being 1,069 in 1966.

TABLE 1 - PETITIONS FILED AND ORDERS GRANTED, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1961 TO 1967

Particulars	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
PETITIONS							
Dissolution	865	910	1,005	1,034	1,107	1,133	1,178
Nullity of Marriage	9	4	5	5	13	7	11
Dissolution or nullity of marriage	-	1	1	2	2	3	2
Judicial separation	3	1	3	4	5	2	15
Dissolution or judicial separation	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Total	877	916	1,014	1,045	1,127	1,147	1,207
ORDERS							
Dissolution - Nisi	586	781	748	940	931	1,130	832
Absolute	718	685	765	887	852	1,069	929
Nullity of marriage - Nisi	8	3	4	4	2	2	1
Absolute	6	6	5	3	3	9	9
Judicial separation	-	1	-	-	-	2	1

Fluctuations from year to year in the number of orders granted may be independent of fluctuations in the number of petitions filed because there is a considerable variation in the number of actions awaiting hearing at the end of each year.

TABLE 2 - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION: GROUNDS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1965 to 1967

Grounds	Petitioner			1965			1966			1967		
	Hus-band	Wife	Total	Hus-band	Wife	Total	Hus-band	Wife	Total	Hus-band	Wife	Total
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE												
Single grounds -												
Adultery	156	146	302	169	145	314	165	157	322			
Cruelty	2	175	177	10	180	190	4	171	175			
Desertion	126	188	314	135	195	330	154	205	359			
Drunkenness	2	18	20	3	13	16	1	20	21			
Separation	66	107	173	66	97	163	64	117	181			
Other single grounds	4	4	8	4	5	9	8	4	12			
Dual grounds -												
Adultery and desertion	10	6	16	7	4	11	6	5	11			
Adultery and cruelty	-	9	9	1	11	12	-	10	10			
Cruelty and desertion	-	5	5	-	12	12	1	9	10			
Cruelty and drunkenness	1	20	21	-	23	23	-	19	19			
Desertion and separation	21	29	50	20	22	42	22	22	44			
Other dual grounds	2	6	8	4	5	9	1	6	7			
Three grounds or more	-	4	4	-	2	2	3	4	7			
Total	390	717	1,107	419	714	1,133	429	749	1,178			
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE												
Bigamy	1	3	4	1	1	2	1	-	1			
Incapacity to consummate	-	4	4	-	3	3	2	6	8			
Invalid marriage	2	-	2	1	-	1	1	1	2			
Pregnancy	3	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	-			
Total	6	7	13	3	4	7	4	7	11			
JUDICIAL SEPARATION												
Adultery	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	6	6			
Cruelty	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	8	8			
Other grounds	-	2	2	-	1	1	-	1	1			
Total	-	5	5	-	2	2	-	15	15			

TABLE 3 - DISSOLUTION AND ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE - ORDERS ABSOLUTE : GROUNDS,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1961 TO 1967

Grounds	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE							
On petition of husband :							
Single grounds -							
Adultery	126	(a) 108	121	(a) 140	124	166	141
Cruelty	5	1	2	3	5	4	-
Desertion	154	141	137	111	153	145	143
Drunkenness	1	-	1	2	-	2	1
Separation	14	60	58	76	63	83	69
Other single grounds	2	3	1	3	-	4	4
Dual grounds	5	2	18	23	(a) 10	3	2
Three grounds or more	(a) 1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total	(a) 308	(a) 315	339	(a) 358	(a) 355	407	360
On petition of wife :							
Single grounds -							
Adultery	109	(a) 67	81	(a) 104	90	143	130
Cruelty	133	59	80	99	96	132	116
Desertion	135	160	132	157	159	216	198
Drunkenness	5	3	5	11	9	30	11
Separation	9	70	104	104	117	130	97
Other single grounds	7	4	6	7	8	5	3
Dual grounds	10	8	17	45	(a) 17	6	14
Three grounds or more	(a) 3	-	1	3	2	-	-
Total	(a) 411	(a) 371	426	(a) 530	(a) 498	662	569
All dissolutions :							
Single grounds -							
Adultery	235	174	202	243	214	309	271
Cruelty	138	60	82	102	101	136	116
Desertion	289	301	269	268	312	361	341
Drunkenness	6	3	6	13	9	32	12
Separation	23	130	162	180	180	213	166
Other single grounds	9	7	7	10	8	9	7
Dual grounds -							
Adultery and desertion	8	1	5	8	6	3	2
Adultery and other	2	3	2	6	2	1	2
Cruelty and drunkenness	2	1	5	9	3	1	5
Cruelty and other	2	4	4	7	3	-	1
Desertion and separation	1	1	16	34	8	2	5
Desertion and other	-	-	2	4	3	2	1
Other dual grounds	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Three grounds or more	3	-	2	3	2	-	-
Total	718	685	765	887	852	1,069	929
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE							
All nullities :							
Bigamy	2	3	2	-	-	3	4
Incapacity to consummate	2	2	3	3	3	3	2
Invalid marriage	2	1	-	-	-	1	2
Pregnancy	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Total	6	6	5	3	3	9	9

(a) Includes a dissolution granted to both husband and wife

TABLE 4 - DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE - ORDERS ABSOLUTE: AGES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1965 TO 1967

Age of Husband		1967								1966	1965	
		Age of Wife							Total			
		Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Over				Not Stated
Under 20		64	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	76	86	54
20-24		219	205	29	5	-	1	-	-	459	516	418
25-29		38	111	42	10	4	-	-	1	206	265	212
30-34		13	32	32	11	8	2	1	-	99	103	73
35-39		4	7	10	5	10	2	3	-	41	47	46
40-44		2	5	2	1	9	3	2	-	24	24	20
45 and over		-	-	3	2	2	1	15	-	23	26	26
Not Stated		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3
Total	1967	340	371	119	34	33	9	21	2	929	1,069	852
	1966	369	437	135	56	32	20	19	1			
	1965	275	380	88	47	34	12	14	2			

TABLE 5 - DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE - ORDERS ABSOLUTE: DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND
NUMBER OF CHILDREN (a), SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1964 to 1967

Duration of Marriage	1967								1966	1965	1964
	Number of Children (a)										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 & Over	Total			
0- 4	49	32	7	1	-	-	-	89	83	64	61
5- 9	81	88	50	23	4	2	-	248	282	222	207
10-14	35	37	49	38	19	4	2	184	222	186	183
15-19	23	39	55	25	17	1	10	170	182	154	185
20-24	17	27	42	25	7	8	1	127	137	114	122
25-29	22	16	12	10	4	1	-	65	88	59	70
30-34	14	6	4	1	-	-	-	25	41	30	32
35-39	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	15	17	14	16
40-44	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	6	6
45 and over	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	3	5
Total 1967	261	246	219	123	51	16	13	929	1,069	852	887
1966	333	247	259	139	51	22	18				
1965	253	198	210	109	52	19	11				
1964	260	227	205	118	48	21	8				

(a) Living "children of the marriage" under 21 years at time of petition.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

TABLE 6 - DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE - ORDERS ABSOLUTE: AGES AT TIME OF DIVORCE,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1964 TO 1967

Age of Husband	1967								1966	1965	1964
	Age of Wife							Total			
	Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Over	Not Stated				
Under 25	32	3	-	-	-	1	-	36	38	20	20
25-29	63	72	5	1	-	-	-	141	142	111	91
30-34	9	84	53	10	-	-	-	156	167	136	148
35-39	-	21	51	50	14	5	-	141	196	154	157
40-44	1	3	18	68	52	17	-	159	169	141	137
45 and over	-	4	6	27	69	188	1	295	355	287	328
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	6
Total 1967	105	187	133	156	135	211	2	929	1,069	852	887
1966	108	191	170	172	145	282	1				
1965	71	154	137	148	126	214	2				
1964	70	133	133	159	145	241	6				

D.L.J. AITCHISON

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN
AND GOVERNMENT STATIST

Commonwealth Bureau of Census & Statistics

ADELAIDE S.A.

16 July 1968

